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PARENTS FEAR SON KIDNAPED BY A SPY RING

BY JOSEPH HEARST
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Aug. 28.—The grieving Chicago parents of Michael A. Martino Jr., brilliant mathematician reported killed in an airplane crash in Italy, refuse to believe that he is dead.

Rather, they fear that he and his wife, Corinne, were kidnaped by foreign agents intent on forcing Martino to use his scientific knowledge for a foreign power. They do not believe their son and his wife were aboard the Trans-World air lines plane which crashed near Milan.

Martino's scientific background is attested to by Vice Adm. Herman G. Rickover, who wrote the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Martino, 5337 Fletcher st., that their son played an important role in the application of digital computers to atomic reactor design.

Manager Praises Work

B. H. Caldwell, general manager of the General Electric Knolls atomic power laboratory, Schenectady, N. Y., said Martino had worked out a code which greatly increased the speed of computation over previous codes. In a letter to the parents, Caldwell said "this new tool will be very valuable in furthering the work of our naval reactor projects."

The Martinos have enlisted the aid of Rep. Roman C. Pucinski (D., Ill.) in urging a thorough investigation of the crash June 26 in which 66

In a letter to Pucinski, disclosed Friday, Martino said: "I spent five days in the tragic area of Italy with the intention of identifying my loved ones. Strangely enough there was not one single item found that could have helped me identify the bodies. Yet I buried two bodies in Italy, but only God above knew who they were."

Signs Death Certificates

"I signed the death certificates much against my will because I did not identify either one. It was only for the sake of the three children

left behind that I consented so that they would receive money due them from insurance and compensation."

The children are William, 5, Mary, 3, and Alice, 2. Martino was 29 and his wife 31. Before Martino and his wife went to Italy they had attended a conference of scientists in Paris.

Martino in his letter referred to the Paris conference and asked: "What better place could this abduction have happened so as to make it indicate that they had perished in this disaster?"

"The outcome of the investigation as to the actual cause will be the only means by which I will accept whether they died from accident or met foul play," Martin added. "We do know what took place after World War II when so many German scientists disappeared. I may not be amiss in saying that it could happen in this case also."

Raises Serious Question

Pucinski said Martino's letter raised a serious question about the disappearance of the young scientist. The congressman wrote Allen W. Dulles, director of the central intelligence agency, request-

ing a full investigation to determine whether Martino and his wife actually boarded the plane. He said he wrote Dulles that if the investigation does not establish beyond doubt that they did then the C. I. A. should investigate their whereabouts.

"I wrote Dulles that there is no question in my mind that our enemies would resort to any means to disrupt our nation's efforts to retain our dominant position in the field of scientific research," Pucinski said.

The Martinos were natives of Chicago. For the past two years, they lived in Schenectady, where Martino was the top theoretical mathematician at the General Electric atomic power plant. Martino was a graduate of the University of Chicago and received his doctorate at the University of Illinois. Mrs. Martino's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Max Drafz of Evanston.